

Perkins Regional Course of Study School 2023
423 Mission
Second Session

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Course Description

This course introduces the theology and scope of mission, and the pastor's role in leading congregations in their mission as agents of God's transforming redemption.

Course Overview

This course will explore the many facets of mission in the local church and community and will help us to discover new ideas about how we understand missions in the current context. Students will learn in the online classroom and can dream, create and write about their own imagined experience during our time together. Extra points will be awarded for proof that the student has begun to live into this dream prior to the end of class. We will briefly explore the history of missions and its evolution.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, candidates will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblical and theological framework for personal and community missions.
2. Explain the Wesleyan relationship of personal piety and social holiness.
3. Examine and reflect on unjust social realities and the response of the church both locally and globally.
4. Analyze their local ministry context; imagine engaging the community in transformative mission work; create a purpose, plan, and strategy for carrying out this work. Imagine the outcomes. Would they meet your goals?

Required Course Text Books:

- Donovan, Vincent J, *Christianity Rediscovered*, Orbis, Maryknoll, 1978. ISBN: 978-1-57075-462-3
- Jennings, Theodore, *Good News to the Poor*, Abingdon, Nashville, 1990. ISBN: 0-687-15528-2
- Outler & Heitzenrater, *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*, Abingdon, Nashville 1984. ISBN: 0-687-20495-X
- Robert, Dana, *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2009. ISBN 978-0-631-23610-1

- Sacks, Jonathan, *From Optimism to Hope: Thoughts for the Day*, Bloomsbury: London, 2004. ISBN 978-0-8264-7481-0

Pre-Class Assignments – due June 30, 2023

Pre-class Assignments

Assignment #1

Practice of Personal Piety

From the time you register for this class, through our meeting time together (online) utilize Rabbi Sacks' devotional book for daily reflection. There are 70 readings. Your assignment is to read them all. Write no less than one hearty reflection paragraph on at least 10 of these readings. Cite scripture passages that come to mind using the NRSV for each of the 10 readings. Reflections are to be typed but need not be perfect in form or grammar.

TEN points. One-half point given for extra reflections written up to ten readings (five points), one paragraph each.

Assignment #2

Sermons from John Wesley

Read two sermons **from John Wesley's Sermons**: a) The Scripture Way of Salvation and b) On Working out Our Own Salvation. These can be found in the text, *John Wesley's Sermons, An Anthology* by Albert C. Outler and Richard P. Heitzenrater, or online here: GodOnThe.Net/wesley (Links to an external site.)

You are sitting before the Board of Ordained Ministry. You must tell them about these two sermons and what they say to us today about mission work. You may use a tool to guide your presentation called a conceptualization – basically a computer generated drawing that will help you remember the key points to present to the Board that cover the answers to the following questions. Cite page references. Examples of conceptualizations on a totally different topic are attached.

- What are the primary points Wesley articulates about mission work?
- Why is mission work important to Wesley?
- To whom do we have the responsibility to help?
- Is there urgency? Why?
- What scriptures (besides the ones he uses) relates to Wesley's message?
- How might you use these ideas in preaching in your local setting?

TEN points may be awarded for this assignment.

Pre-class Assignment #3
What is “mission”?

Donovan, Vincent J, Christianity Rediscovered, Orbis, Maryknoll, 1978.

In precisely two pages, engage Donovan’s book. You may want to use the following questions to guide your thoughts.

- What is mission work?
- Where do we do mission?
- Why do we get involved in mission?
- Does mission work relate to evangelism? If so, how?
- What are the dangers of missions?
- What are the great fallacies of engaging other cultures?
- What did Jesus say about mission work?
- How will reading this book influence your preaching and teaching?

TEN points may be awarded for this assignment.

Pre-class Assignment #4
A Wesleyan Perspective of Mission

The purpose of this question is for you to work hard and think through your responses. Do not think it trite.

Read Jennings’s book, Good News to the Poor. Imagine you are observing a conversation between Donovan and Jennings. Write ten questions about which you would like to hear them dialogue.

TEN points may be awarded for this assignment.

Pre-class Assignment #5-

Living into Mission in the Community and World

Dana L. Roberts writes about the history of Christian mission. You are invited to write an addendum to her story using the concepts she teaches as well as the other ideas you have learned in the readings for this class.

Select a social concern in your local community, state, nation, or even somewhere in the world. Briefly design a mission ministry to engage the need. Make sure to include the following information:

- Who is involved?
- Why did you select this area of need?

How will you invite participation?
Who will govern the work or say that it is “complete”?
What is your role?
How long do you anticipate the ministry will last?
What if things do not happen as you perceive they will? How will you “course correct”?
Where is the opportunity for transformation? Who / What / How will transformation take place?

A FIRST DRAFT of your topic will be due on June 30, 2023. However, you may continue to work until the WEDNESDAY of class. We will spend time in our last days together with you presenting your area of mission and the ideas you have. The class will have an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions.

FIFTY points may be awarded for this assignment.

If you have proof that you are attempting to “live into” your dream – such as a letter to your Bishop, your congregational approval of a new ministry area, your engagement of your DS to form a new district mission ministry, etc., you may earn as much as TEN points, extra credit.

COSS Writing Style

All Perkins Course of Study School courses use the same style of writing, known as the Chicago/Turabian style of writing. Basic examples of citations for written assignments are available for reference in the COSS Student Policies and on the COSS web site.

All students are encouraged to purchase the following book that is the basis for submitting written work using the required formats for citations/footnotes.

Turabian, Kate L. A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Ninth Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers (Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing) Ninth Edition.

ISBN-10: 022643057X

ISBN-13: 978-0226430577

Pre-class Assignments Policy:

Instructors have discretion to lower a student’s grade for the pre-class assignments and their overall course grade for late submission of pre-class assignments. Submission of all pre-class assignments by the first day of class is required to attend the class. Students who do not have pre-class assignments completed by the first day of class will be required to withdraw from the course without a refund.